

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0260
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, CV (BARROS, RICHARD LIMA)
SUBJ: DEATHS AND ESTATES: RICHARD LIMA BARROS

REF: A. STATE 52207, B. LISBON 1914

1. EMBOFF VISITED SAO VICENTE MARCH 12 AND DISCUSSED CASE WITH FAMILY OF DECEASED AND LOCAL OFFICIALS. APPARENTLY SUBSEQUENT TO WIDOW'S COMMUNICATION TO DEPT AND CONGRESSMAN STUDDS (REF A) OF HER DESIRE FOR EXHUMATION, SHE TALKED FURTHER BY PHONE TO FAMILY IN SAO VICENTE WHICH REPORTED THAT WIDOW NOW ACCEPTS FACT OF BURIAL IN CAPE VERDE AND IMPOSSIBILITY OF DISINTERMENT.

2. FAMILY IN CAPE VERDE WROTE TO MRS. BARROS ON MARCH 10 EXPLAINING IN DETAIL ALL CIRCUMSTANCES SUMMARY OF WHICH FOLLOWS. DECEASED ARRIVED SAO VICENTE 28 FEBRUARY EXHAUSTED FROM LONG FLIGHT. SPENT SEVERAL DAYS ACTIVELY VISITING FAMILY AND FRIENDS. BEGAN HAVING PAINS AND VOMITING EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 5 BUT REFUSED FAMILY'S DESIRE TAKE HIM TO HOSPITAL SAYING SUCH PAINS HAPPENED FREQUENTLY AND MEDICINE WHICH HE HAD BROUGHT FROM US WOULD SOON TAKE EFFECT. FAMILY NONETHELESS CALLED IN NURSE WHO FRIEND OF FAMILY WHO ADMINISTERED ADDITIONAL MEDICATION. DECEASED WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AROUND 8:30 AM MORNING MARCH 5, WAS ADMITTED IMMEDIATELY AND GIVEN OXYGEN. HE
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DIED SIXTEEN HOURS LATER OF, ACCORDING OFFICIAL OBITUARY, HEART ATTACK.

3. CAPE VERDE LAW REQUIRES BURIAL WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DEATH AND SINCE THERE NO REPEAT NO MORGUE WITH REFRIGERATION IN SAO VICENTE, THIS LAW STRICTLY APPLIED. DIRECTOR OF SAO VICENTE HOSPITAL, DR. ANTONIO COHEN, CONFIRMED TO

EMBOFF, THAT 3:00 PM SUNDAY INTERMENT WAS SCHEDULED BY HIM AS LATEST POSSIBLE TIME WITHIN LAW THAT BURIAL COULD TAKE PLACE. BY TIME ALL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE INTERMENT WAS AT 5:00 PM MARCH 6.

4. FAMILY SHOWED EMBOFF COPIES OF CABLES SENT TO MRS. BARROS TO INFORM HER OF DEATH AND COPY OF CABLE FROM MRS. BARROS REQUESTING RETURN OF REMAINS WHICH ARRIVED MARCH 7. UPON RECEIPT THIS CABLE, FAMILY WENT TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE TO DETERMINE IF DISINTERMENT WOULD BE POSSIBLE AND WERE TOLD THIS POSSIBLY ONLY IN CASES OF CRIMINAL SUSPICION AND, IN ANY CASE, GIVEN LACK OF ANY EMBALMMENT, DISINTERMENT NOT ADVISABLE.

5. EMBOFF IMPRESSED WITH GENUINE GRIED ALL MEMBERS OF FAMILY IN SAO VICENTE THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE ACCEDE TO WIDOW'S WISHES FOR US BURIAL. SINCE UNDER PORTUGUESE LAW, WHICH STILL IN EFFECT IN CAPE VERDE, ADULT CHILD IS CAPABLE OF MAKING BURIAL DECISION, THERE WOULD BE NO LEGAL GROUND FOR DISINTERMENT.

6. CONGRESSMAN STUDDS INTERESTED.
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